



SPEECH ON THE BUDGET

BY THE

HON. J. G. ROBERTSON,

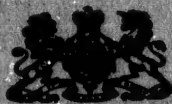
TREASURER OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,

DELIVERED IN THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, QUEBEC,

29TH NOVEMBER, 1870.

(Reported for Morning Chronicle.)



QUEBEC:

PRINTED BY J. J. FOOTE.

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REPORT OF THE BOARD

OF THE

HON. J. G. ROBERTSON

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

REPORT OF THE BOARD

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1881



PRINTED

BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER

STATIONERS' HALL, LONDON

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BUDGET SPEECH

OF THE

HON. TREASURER OF QUEBEC.

NOVEMBER 29TH, 1870.

AFTER RECESS.

When the House resumed business at eight o'clock, two Bills of a private nature were passed through Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON then moved the House into Committee of Supply. In doing so, he said :

MR. SPEAKER,—Custom has rendered indispensable, under a free system of Government like ours, that on making a motion that the House go into Committee of Supply, a full and clear exposition should be made for the information of the House and Country, of the expenditure of the Supply previously granted by the Legislature, for public purposes. Of the amount of cash received and the sources from which collections have been made, it will be expected that I will give to the House every information. It is also and very properly too, expected that I should give the House clearly to understand the sources from which our revenues are expected to come, and the uses to which these revenues are to be applied during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1872, and also to give to the House and the Country, as definite an idea as I can of our present standing and future prospects.

While endeavouring to give such information on these points as I can, I trust I may claim the indulgence of the House, feeling, as I do, my inability to express in as clear and lucid a manner as I could wish, the facts in relation to past transactions, and my views and opinions on our present standing and future prospects.

The House, with that courtesy and kindness which has characterized the members of this branch of the Legislature since its first opening, received my financial statement last year, in a manner highly flattering to me. May I ask again the same favorable consideration of the House, on the present occasion?

I shall endeavour to make my remarks as brief as possible, as clear and definite as I can—and, should I fail in making the House understand the true position of affairs—past and future—I trust the House will, as in the past, give me credit for a desire to afford every information required, and will rest assured that there is no attempt on the part of the Government, or my own, to withhold information of any kind whatever.

On a previous occasion I had to state that it was impossible for me to give but a partial statement of the financial standing of the Province, owing to the arbitration between Ontario and Quebec not being finished. I regret being obliged to state on the present occasion, that the same inability exists which then existed.

There has been considerable progress made towards laying before the Arbitrators the claims of the Province, and several meetings were held in Ottawa and Montreal, in attempting to obtain due consideration of the claims of this Province before the Board. Circumstances, however, occurred which led the Quebec Arbitrator to resign his commission—to decline acting longer in connection with his colleagues, because he felt himself in a position where he could not obtain that justice for our Province to which she was entitled, and would no longer remain in a false position and give his countenance to the perpetration of a gross injustice to Quebec; or lend the sanction of his name to a court, whose preliminary judgments in a manner compelled the continuation of a course decidedly contrary to those principles of law and equity which should govern such an investigation.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Day, a gentleman whose reputation as Lawyer and Judge stands as high as that of any man in the country—whose opinions and decisions on questions of law are respected, and are quoted by all our

professional men. A gentleman whose integrity and honesty is above suspicion—whose opinions on questions of public policy and public law are matters of record in the annals of the country, political and judicial, and whose clear exposition of his opinions on the questions at issue between the two Provinces no one has dared to controvert—could not, in justice to his Government or himself, continue to act apparently for Quebec, but unable to do more than protest against her spoliation. Under these circumstances, Mr. Justice Day resigned his position, preferring rather, to do this than give his tacit consent or countenance to that course which he saw was determined upon by his colleagues, in the interest of Ontario and against Quebec.

True, there have been frequent sittings of the two remaining Arbitrators; that of the Dominion Government and the one from Ontario, who took upon themselves to sit upon and pretended to consider "in a calm, judicial spirit," the important matters laid before them, fully, by Ontario, and partially only, by Quebec. True, they have promulgated a pretended award, or decision or judgment, call it what you will, and in defiance of *Law*, *Equity*, *sound judgment* or common sense, actually placed their hands to a document called an "Award," or decision, as between the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and the Dominion Government, which I dare not call otherwise than an imposition upon the public of the Dominion. This document is remarkable only for its manifest partiality to Ontario and injustice to Quebec. Their own preliminary judgment they have not adhered to, they have been guided by no principle, and have given no reason of any kind for their judgment.

That this House or this Province will ever submit to such an outrage, I will not insult their understanding by even supposing. That the people of our Sister Province will insist upon carrying out an award, so manifestly the result of utter ignorance of the duties devolving on the Arbitrators and of the questions to be adjudicated upon, I have too good an opinion of their sense of fairness to think. That our Federal Government will for a moment hesitate to announce their decided conviction founded upon law and justice, that the award cannot

be recognized or acted upon by them is hardly within the bounds of possibility. In fact, to do otherwise would be acting contrary to their whole previous conduct, doing violence to what must be their own convictions, and seriously affect the stability and permanence of the whole confederation.

I do not, however, intend going into a detail of the whole circumstances connected with the Arbitration. My present object being rather to give statements relative to the financial operations of the Government—past and future. Another opportunity will be afforded of going into the Arbitration question, when the resolutions respecting the Arbitration come up for discussion in the House. In the meantime, let me say that I do not impute to the two Arbitrators who acted, any *corrupt* or improper motives, but I cannot express very great confidence in their knowledge of the subjects treated upon, either as lawyers or practical business men, or much respect for the manner in which they have been induced to act, against the plain and explicit terms of the B. N. A. Act of 1867, or a profound regard for their opinions and actions as statesmen.

MINISTERIAL PROGRAMME.

Treating, therefore, the whole proceedings of the two Arbitrators, thus far, as a nullity, I may remark, irrespective of these, that it is the intention of the Government to increase the resources of the Province, and to contract the expenditure as much as is consistent with proper efficiency in the various departments of the public service, and encouragement to enterprises likely to increase the prosperity the country.

The resources ought to be augmented as much as possible without bringing, more than absolutely necessary, additional burdens upon the people. This may be done with consent of the House, which I have no doubt will be granted. Last year I stated that I believed there would be a larger balance in the Treasury—(notwithstanding the increased expenditure during the first four or five months of the year)—at the close of the then current fiscal year, June 30, 1870, than was found in the Treasury the

same period 1869. This anticipation, I am happy to say, has been realized; and an examination of the Public Accounts will, I think, convince this House, that we have no reason to be dissatisfied with our financial position at the close of the past fiscal year, ending the 30th June last. Our receipts were, taken together, more than my estimate—and the expenditure less than I anticipated. There was in the Treasury at the close of the fiscal year the sum of \$667,243.49, which exceeded the amount in the Treasury at the close of the former year by \$104,043.38, not including warrants unpaid.

I will now proceed to give somewhat in detail, a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the past fiscal year.

It will be in the recollection of hon. members that I took votes for some items of expenditure, not sufficiently provided for in the former estimates, for six months only, to complete the last fiscal year, and then estimates for our complete fiscal year ending the 30th June next; hereafter the annual votes of this House, and the expenditure under these votes will correspond as to time, each year ending 30th June. Owing to the plan formerly adopted of obtaining appropriations from the House for eighteen months, (thus mixing part of two fiscal years,) I shall not attempt to institute comparisons as to whether the estimated receipts and estimated expenditure agreed, or nearly so, with *actual* receipts and *actual* expenditures, as it would only confuse the House and necessitate a statement of the amount of appropriations made for each 18 months, unexpended at the end of 12 months, and thus render the statement unintelligible. Hereafter, as I said before, the estimates of receipts and expenditure, corresponding as to time with the appropriations made by the House, such comparison can easily be made, and the opinions of the Treasurer tested. I come first therefore to the statement of the receipts and expenditure for the last fiscal year. The details will be found in the public accounts in the hands of hon. members.

*Receipts for Fiscal Year ending 30th June, 1870 :*DOMINION GOVERNMENT: *Under Audited*

Cash on Account Subsidy.....	\$859,626 40
(Retained by Dominion Government.....	\$99,626 40)

CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT :

General Receipts.....	\$ 49,632 53
Woods and Forests.....	362,868 02
Crown Domain, Seigniorv of Lauzon, Suspense Accounts, Deposits on Land and Timber, Collections, &c.....	30,000 35
	<u>\$442,500 90</u>

SPECIAL FUNDS.

Clergy Lands (Municipalities' Fund).....	7,485 94
Jesuits' Estates (Superior Education and Income Funds).....	23,712 76

BILLS RECEIVABLE.

Paid since June 30th, 1869.....	42,985 47
Total Receipts—Crown Lands.....	\$516,685 07
Less: Bills Receivable included in above, but not yet matured.....	15,206 82
Total Receipts from Crown Lands.....	<u>\$501,478 25</u>

It will be noticed that the receipts from Woods and Forests last year, were only \$6,982 less than from U. C., and L. C. year '66-'67, the only instance in which the collections of the United Provinces were in excess of those of this Province for the past year—this shows good management and care on the part of the Honble. Commissioner of Crown Lands and his assistants.

LAW FEE FUND.

Per Stamps.....	\$75,743 97	
Per Collections.....	4,037 30	
		\$79,731 27

This amount is collected on Civil processes.

BUILDING AND JURY FUND.

Per Stamps.....	\$ 8,666 93	
Per Collections.....	16,483 49	
		25,150 42

COURT HOUSE TAX.

Stamps	\$17,527 50	
Collections.....	961 54	
		18,489 04
Montreal.....	\$16,728 22	} This amount is due to holders of Court House Debentures issued for these places.
Aylmer	944 01	
Kamouraska.....	784 80	
Bonaventure.....	32 01	
		\$18,489 04
Law Stamps undistributed.....		\$5,167 47
Registration do		4,595 56

LICENSES.

Proceeds from Tavern, Shop, Auctioneers, Pedlars Licenses, &c.....	\$98,059 53
---	-------------

This amount should be increased. The bill now before the House for consolidating the License Acts, and amending the same, will, I hope, increase our Revenue from Licenses hereafter.

EDUCATION.

Normal Schools—	
McGill	\$2,437 70
Jacques Cartier.....	1,702 60
Superannuated Teachers' Fund contributed by Teachers.....	\$4,140 30 432 46

Normal School Building Fund.....	\$1,600 00
Journals; Public Instruction.....	140 06
Common School (Refunds).....	54 00
	\$6,366 82

PUBLIC WORKS.

Bonner property and Rents in connection with Quebec Gaol.....	160 00
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CASUAL REVENUES.

C	ists of proceeds of stolen and unclaimed goods sold in Montreal (\$292 58) and re- ceived from sundry Clerks of the Peace, for fines, &c.....	\$1,223 38
	Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul.....	1,788 01
	St. John's Lunatic Asylum.	305 00
	Municipal Loan Fund.....	5,917 35
	This amount must be increased largely. The Municipalities are able to pay, and doubtless disposed to if put in mind.	
	Quebec Fire Loan.....	\$ 1,028 11
	<i>Official Gazette</i>	16,299 18

It will be observed that all receipts, are paid into the Treasury, and all expenditures paid through the Treasury Department.

Besides the amount mentioned, there has been done for the Government,—for which nothing has been paid, and for which at the reduced rates formerly paid to the Queen's Printer—printing, to the amount of \$5,344.67, including the *Gazette* distributed to officers, &c., making the actual total amount of receipts represent \$21,643.85.

Printing Laws.....	\$156 53
Legislative Fees. Private Bills.....	431 72
Interest on Special Deposits.....	\$24,098 56
Do. Bills receivable.....	125 89
	24,224 45

Refunds on appropriations—

Crown Lands, \$3,354 13 ; Reformatory of St. Vincent de Paul, \$1,201 43 ; Richelieu Company, \$17.00 ; Legislative Assembly, \$1,075 86 ; Accountant Contingencies, \$497 98.....	\$6,146 40
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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Montreal House of Correction ; Montreal Cor- poration for Gaol Guard ; Sheriffs' Con- tingencies, Three Rivers (\$66 27).....	6,841 67
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Refunds.....	\$12,988 07
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Total Receipts for the year.....	\$1,663,236 36
On hand, 30th June, 1869.....	562,200 11
	\$2,226,436 47

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS.

Dominion Government.....	\$859,626 40
Crown Lands Department.....	501,478 25
Law Fee Fund, Building and Jury Fund, Stamps and Court House Tax.....	133,183 76
Licenses, various kinds.....	98,059 53
Interest on Deposits.....	24,224 15
From all other sources, Quebec Fire Loan, Mun. Loan Fund, Reformatory, Printing, Refunds, Public Works, Casual Revenue, (only amount to in all).....	46,663 97

Total Cash Receipts.....	\$1,663,236 06
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Expenditure for year ending June 30th, 1870 :

LEGISLATION	\$146,337 79
For Legislative Council.....	\$33,861 40
For Legislative Assembly.....	97,200 00
Sundry expenses of elections, Li- brary, Salaries of Clerks of both Houses, Printing and binding Laws, &c.....	15,276 39

\$146,337 79

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Law Fee Fund, Salaries of Sheriffs, Prothonotaries, Clerks Circuit Courts, Court of Appeals, &c.....	\$107,899 37
General Expenditure—Criminal prosecutions, Sheriffs, Prothonotaries, Clerks of the Peace, Contingencies, Coroners, &c.....	161,603 38
	\$269,505 75
Police—Montreal and Quebec.....	\$12,407 76
Special—Under Act of last session..	2,901 46
	15,309 22
Reformatory—St. Vincent de Paul; — maintenance.....	\$28,957 78
Prison Inspection.....	3,763 42
	32,721 20
Total—Administration of Justice, Reformatory and Inspection.....	
	\$317,536 17

EDUCATION.

Superior Education.....	\$74,473 00
Common Schools.....	123,360 00
Schools in poor Municipalities.....	7,728 00
Normal Schools.....	38,400 00
School Inspectors (Salaries).....	18,987 50
Books for prizes.....	3,000 00
Journals of Education.....	2,395 26
Superannuated Teachers.....	4,729 10
	\$273,072 86
Literary and Scientific Institutions.....	4,000 00
Arts and Manufactures.....	2,000 00
Total Education.....	\$279,072 86
Agriculture—Societies, &c.....	\$49,863 00
Immigration.....	5,958 12
Colonization Societies.....	8,313 73
Roads:—	
1st class.....	\$168,952 84
2nd do.....	23,369 87

3rd Class.....	\$10,152 39
	<u>202,475 10</u>
Col. Surveys through Cr. L'd Dept.	13,055 48
	<u> </u>
Total Agriculture, Colonization and	
Immigration.....	\$279,665 43

PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

Rents, Insurances and Repairs.....	\$23,440 89
Inspections and surveys.....	1,037 40
Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul.....	16,254 65
Montreal Court House.....	8,449 50
Old Government House, Montreal.....	8,344 50
Rents, Insurances, and Repairs, of Court Houses	
and Jails.....	9,120 14
Aylmer Court House and Jail.....	3,510 00
Montreal Gaol.....	828 79
Quebec New Jail.....	16,887 60
Sherbrooke, New jail and Court House.....	5,787 76
St. Scholastique Gaol.....	263 50
Court Houses and Jails, new Districts, walls	
to surround the same.....	14,875 51
	<u> </u>
Total Public Works and Buildings.....	\$108,800 24

CHARITIES.

St. John's Lunatic Asylum.....	18,319 43
Beauport, do.....	101,037 42
Marine Hospital, Quebec.....	4,000 00
Hospitals and Asylums generally.....	38,830 00
Distressed People, Red River.....	2,500 00
Reformatory School, Quebec.....	641 98
Industrial do do.....	983 33
	<u> </u>
Total—Asylums, Hospitals, &c.....	\$166,312 16
	<u> </u>
Registration Service, through Crown Land's	
Department.....	\$12,483 51
Surveys do do.....	29,843 38
General Crown Lands Expenditure.....	59,429 00
	<u> </u>
Total—Crown Lands Expenditure.....	\$101,755 89

Quebec Official Gazette	\$7,649 60
Municipalities' Fund.....	500 00
Arbitration Expenditure under Imperial Act..	2,625 10
Miscellaneous Expenditure.....	18,832 82
Licenses do	741 99
Stamps do	889 62

The total Expenditure by Warrant through
Treasury Department amounts to.....\$1,559,377 85

To which must be added :—

Paid by Revenue Officers out of collections connected with Licenses.....	10,465 08
Tavern Licenses paid to municipalities.....	5,809 56
Building and Jury Fund, by Sheriffs.....	8,492 56
Paid Warrants outstanding, June 30, 1869....	8,687 85

\$1,592,832 90

Less—Warrants outstanding, June 30, 1870... 33,639 92

\$1,559,192 98

So that, taking the total receipts during the year, with amount in the Treasury June 30, 1869, amounts to.....	2,226,436 47
And deduct total expenditure.....	1,559,192 98

Leaving in Treasury, June 30, 1870..... \$667,243 49

Disposed of as follows:

Bank of Montreal, at 5 per cent.....	200,000 00
“ “ at 4 per cent.....	300,000 00
“ ordinary deposit.....	167,243 49

\$667,243 49

It will thus appear that our principal expenditure was
on the following services:

SUMMARY.

Legislation	\$146,337 79
Civil Government.....	128,658 18
Administration Justice—Reformatory, &c.....	317,536 17
Education.....	279,072 86
Agriculture and Colonization.....	279,665 48

Public Works, Court Houses, Jails Rents,	
Insurance, &c.....	\$108,800 24
Charities, Lunatics, Hospitals.....	166,312 16
Crown Lands' Agencies, Surveys, Registration	
Service, &c.....	101,755 89
Sundry other items.....	31,239 13
	\$1,559,377 85
Add, paid by outside Services, Tavern licenses,	
Sheriffs, and old Warrants.....	33,455 05
	\$1,592,832 90
Less—outstanding Warrants.....	33,639 92
Total expenditure: year ending June 30,	
1870.....	\$1,559,192 98

So far, Mr. Speaker, I have been dealing with the actual receipts and actual expenditure for the past fiscal year.

I now come to a much more difficult part of my subject, the estimated receipts and estimated expenditure for the next fiscal year, beginning the first July next.

These have been prepared with much care, and I trust the House will consider them reasonable. It is only right I should state that, I have no doubt the aggregate receipts will be found nearly correct; in excess rather than under the estimate.

It will be for the House to decide whether our receipts may not by judicious Legislation, be increased with advantage to the Country.

The first item of receipts is:—

The Dominion Government—

This amount I put down at.....\$813,638.00

To arrive at that sum, I have carefully estimated the amount of surplus debt Quebec will have to pay, irrespective of the pretended award of the two Arbitrators. Also the amounts paid for Quebec by the Dominion Government and amounts collected by it on our account—Charging the interest on such trust funds in the hands of the Dominion

Government, as there is no question about belonging to Quebec. Last year I was pressed to state the amount at which I estimated the Quebec share of the Surplus debt, with a detailed account of the Trust funds belonging to Quebec. In the public interest I declined to give this information as tending to fetter the Government before the Arbitrators, and I feel sure that our position before the Country and the Arbitrators was improved by my not being committed to any precise figures.

If say 2½ or 3 or 4 millions were stated to be what I called Quebec share of Surplus debt, it would have been construed into a confession of judgment for a larger amount than what we might have to pay, or on the other hand a gross error in placing the amount too small. I trust therefore, in the public interest, that hon. members will not unduly press for information which will place whoever has to deal with the settlement of that vexed question—the division between Ontario and Quebec—in a false position.

That the amount of my estimate will be received, I have no kind of doubt, as based upon a fair settlement between the Provinces.

I now come to Receipts from Crown Lands	
Department, <i>i. e.</i> , General Receipts from	
Woods and Forests, Crown Domain,	
Seigniori of Lauzon, &c., &c.....	\$462,089 00
This Estimate has been prepared by the	
Crown Lands Department, and judging	
from past operations and care exercised	
by the officers in that Department, will,	
I have no doubt, be fully realized.	
From Law and Registration Stamps, I expect	
to receive.....	\$114,700 00

INLAND REVENUE COLLECTIONS.

Licenses of various kinds.....	\$125,000 00
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This amount exceeds previous receipts, but the consolidation of the License Acts in force, and a moderate increase in some of the License duties, if sanctioned by the House, as I hope it will be, will increase our revenue—This bill is already before the House.

Law Fee Fund, Building and Jury Fund, Court House Tax—(exclusive of stamps, I placed at.....	\$21,482 00
Educational Receipts, including Normal Schools, at.....	10,280 00
Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul, St. John's Lunatic Asylum, House of Correction.....	11,365 00
Municipal Loan Fund.....	50,000 00
The amount due on Lower Canada Municipal Loan Fund, is \$1,931,000, principal, and \$918,000, interest. And we surely ought to reach and exceed the amount estimated, not 6 per cent on the interest due.	
On the Quebec Fire Loan.....	5,000 00
From <i>Official Gazette</i>	17,000 00
Casual Revenue.....	\$1,200 00
Printing Laws (private).....	160 00
Fees on Private Bills.....	2,500 00
Public Works.....	160 00
	4,020 00
Interest on deposits, &c.....	20,000 00
Police in Quebec.....	40,000 00
Total.....	\$1,691,574 00

I will now, Mr. Speaker, proceed to give a statement of the estimated Expenditure for the fiscal year between 30th June, 1871, and 30th June, 1872.

It will be recollected that, in obtaining votes from the House for those amounts, it does not necessarily imply that the whole sum voted for any particular service will be spent.

My intention is to ask enough according to the most careful estimate made of what will be required, rather having too much appropriated than too little.

The unexpended balance being written off, is retained in the Treasury, to be appropriated hereafter as the House may direct;

And first I come to

I. LEGISLATION.

Legislative Council, Indemnity, Mileage, Sa- laries and Contingencies.....	\$ 34,950 00
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Legislative Assembly, for similar services.....	\$98,000 00
Expenses of Elections.....	23,000 00
Parliamentary Library.....	3,000 00
Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, salaries and contingent expenses.....	2,800 00
Printing, Binding and distributing the Laws..	4,500 00
Law Clerk—Salaries and contingencies.....	3,445 00

Making a total expenditure for Legislation.... \$165,295 00

II. CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Salaries of Office and contingencies..... \$137,086 00

The items of this estimate are given to the House in the printed statement.

III. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, &C.

Administration of Justice.....	\$298,786 00
Police, covering statutory appropriations, and including special Police.....	54,000 00
Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul, Maintenance.....	32,614 00
Prison Inspection.....	4,000 00

Total Expenditure, Administration of Justice, &c..... \$389,400 00

This expenditure will have to be reduced in some way. In various localities, more must be contributed from local sources.

IV. EDUCATION (covering statutory appropriations.)

Superior Education.....	\$ 71,000 00
Common Schools.....	129,000 00
Schools in poor Municipalities.....	8,000 00
Normal Schools.....	40,000 00
Salaries of School Inspectors.....	20,600 00
Books for Prizes.....	2,500 00
Journals of Education.....	2,400 00

It is to be observed that Educational notices are required by law to be inserted in the

Journals of Education. This is done without charge. If paid for at usual rates, the cost would be far more than the appropriation.

Superannuated Teachers.....	4,850 00
Total Education.....	\$278,350 00
Literary and Scientific Institutions.....	3,600 00
Arts and Manufactures.....	3,000 00

This item has been increased \$1,000—as it is intended to open a school in Quebec, and also to open school in various towns, if encouragement is given by local assistance.

V. AGRICULTURE, IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

Agricultural Societies, covering statutory appropriations.....	\$52,000 00
Board of Agriculture.....	8,000 00
Agricultural Schools (two French and one English)	2,400 00
Total Agriculture.....	\$62,400 00
Immigration.....	20,000 00

COLONIZATION.

Colonization Societies, covering statutory appropriations.....	25,000 00
Colonization Roads, 1st class.....	115,000 00
Do 2nd do	15,000 00
Do 3rd do	10,000 00
Railways, covering statutory appropriations..	45,000 00
Ste. Anne des Monts to Fox River Road.....	4,000 00
Total Agriculture, Immigration, Colonization.....	\$296,400 00

We have reduced somewhat on Colonization Roads, as the Colonization Railways will be drawing largely on the Treasury, during the next fiscal year.

VI. PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

Rents, Insurances, Repairs, &c.....	\$30,700 00
Inspections and Surveys.....	4,000 00
Reformatory St. Vincent de Paul, to complete water-works and purchase of materials.....	5,000 00
St. John's Lunatic Asylum, repairs, outhouses, fences, &c.....	5,000 00
Public Departments, towards erection or purchase of, (one-third of estimated cost). If decision be to build, plans and specifications will be submitted to the House for approval.....	56,000 00
Montreal Court House, floors, &c.....	2,500 00
Montreal Registry Office, to purchase or build, provided the City of Montreal gives an equal amount.....	8,000 00
Bridge at Portage du Fort, provided \$8,000 are furnished by the Dominion, and \$4,000 by private parties.....	4,000 00

Chargeable to Building and Jury Fund for each district.

Rents, Insurances, and Repairs to sundry Court Houses and Gaols.....	\$11,670 00
Montreal Jail, to erect new building.....	40,000 00
Montreal Jail—Heating apparatus, ventilation, &c.; raising walls.....	19,000 00
Court House and Jail, Bonaventure, new to construct.....	6,000 00
Do do do do Gaspé...	6,000 00
Quebec Jail—Alterations (recommended by Inspectors) Kitchen Range and materials to utilize labor of prisoners.....	8,000 00
Quebec Court House—to enlarge.....	7,000 00
Sherbrooke New Jail—right wing and sheds..	10,000 00
Court Houses and Jails; to complete surrounding walls.....	15,000 00

\$122,670 00

Total Public Works and Buildings..... \$231,870 00

It will be noticed that almost the whole expenditure under these heads, for new works

and walls around prisons, is provided for. These items I hope to be getting less and less year by year.

The amounts under Building and Jury Fund will hereafter be charged to the respective Districts, and credit given for contributions to the Fund made by the districts respectively.

VII. CHARITIES.

Beauport Asylum, (737 patients now).....	\$105,500 00
St. John's Lunatic Asylum (about 75 patients)	20,000 00
Marine Hospital, Quebec.....	4,000 00
Miscellaneous Charities.....	37,770 00
Reformatory Schools.....	5,000 00
Industrial do	3,000 00
Total Charities.....	<u>\$175,270 00</u>

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES.

Registration Service.....	\$20,000 00
Quebec <i>Official Gazette</i>	8,200 00
Municipalities Fund, County Court Houses, C. S. L. C, Cap. 117, sect. 7.....	10,216 00
Arbitration under Imperial Act.....	5,000 00
Retiring allowances, if found necessary.....	5,000 00
Enforcement of Game Laws.....	1,000 00
Miscellaneous.....	20,000 00
Special exploratory survey for continuation of Gosford R. R. to Lake St. John.....	5,000 00
Total.....	<u>\$74,416 00</u>

This amount is not to bind the Government to continue the work or grant aid towards the road, but to ascertain if a route is practicable.

I will take this opportunity of stating that the amount heretofore put in the estimates as rent of His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor's House, \$2,500, will not appear.

The amount heretofore granted has never been asked for, nor paid; and I may mention also, in this connection, in order to contradict statements which have been circulated, to the effect, that the entertainment of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, a few months since, when in Quebec, was at the expense of the Province—that such statements are untrue, Sir Narcisse himself having paid all such expenses. I regret having to allude to this, but I could not allow His Excellency to remain under such imputations without contradicting them.

IX.—COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER CHARGES ON
REVENUE.

Surveys.....	\$24,000 00
General expenditure by Crown Lands Department (including Jesuits' Estates, Clergy Lands, Crown Domain, Seigniori of Lauzon, and Woods and Forests).....	54,344 00
Stamps, Licenses, &c.	8,000 00
Total.....	<u>\$86,344 00</u>

Grand total estimated expenditure for fiscal year, 30th June, 1872.....	\$1,841,031 00
To cover special warrants for expenditure already made, belonging to fiscal year ended 30th June, 1870—See Public Accounts, 1870, page 74.....	<u>27,400 54</u>

The estimated receipts as given already amount to.....	\$1,691,574 00
Calculated to be written off on Appropriations of current year—(unexpended).....	269,500 00
Estimated Balance year ending June 30th, '71..	<u>261,667 00</u>

	\$2,222,741 00
Deduct Estimates Appropriating as per Statement.....	<u>1,841,031 00</u>

Estimated Surplus, June 30th, '72.....	\$ 881,710 00
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This balance, it will be observed, although more than last year's Estimate, still is less than former balances actually on hand, if all appropriations are paid.

It will be seen, Mr. Speaker, from the statements already made, that our position as a Province, although sound as regards our financial position, requires at the same time the exercise of economy in the expenditure of our funds. Our undeveloped resources require to be examined into, more closely. Our resources, Agricultural and Mineral, may be largely increased, by judicious assistance rendered from the public purse—but it should always be borne in mind, that we must rely mainly on *private enterprise* to initiate the modes to be adopted, and the methods to be applied, towards these important ends. I firmly believe that our *mineral* resources may be largely developed—and a little aid given by the Government towards the instruction of a class of students, to fit them for the practical, every day work of mining operations—In fact, instruction in the principles of Geology, would prove of incalculable advantage to our Province, and largely increase our wealth from our mineral deposits. (Cheers.).

Government can only to a limited extent come in aid of such undertakings as bid fair to foster enterprise and increase our population, and thereby to develop our resources to a larger extent than at present.

It is too often the case that parties look to Government for pecuniary assistance to promote undertakings in which they are not willing to invest *their own funds*, and then to blame the administration for want of enterprise and energy, when in reality the fault lies in themselves, and in the objects they seek to promote. (Applause.)

Were the resources at command of the Government, larger than they are, the administration would only be too glad to assist in aid of many works of public utility, which under present circumstances and with limited resources, they must refrain from touching.

We need a more self-reliant spirit among our people—more faith and confidence in our own resources and means, and less reliance on government assistance and foreign aid.

Many think and speak as if the means at command of the Government were unlimited, and that there is no danger of our finances becoming embarrassed by too great an expenditure, or by Government lending its credit to enterprises of any description. Such opinions are not founded upon actual facts, and if followed would soon ruin any Government, and seriously endanger the country. Heavy taxation must inevitably follow reckless expenditure of public funds—the prosperity of the Province be retarded, and thus our people, becoming discouraged, would hasten to flee from our country to where lighter burdens in the way of taxation would be laid upon them, or at any rate more means would be at command to meet them.

May I be permitted to allude briefly to a few of those objects which have engaged the attention of the Government and this House during the past three years, in the hope that they may hereafter occupy a prominent place in the policy of whatever Government or House may be in existence at the close of the present session. These objects I consider of vital importance, and although I can say nothing new, or urge their consideration on the House and country in any other way than very common-place, still they may prove the means of doing some good.

In alluding to those pursuits on which I consider the prosperity of our country mainly depends, let it be remembered that their success or failure depend in a great measure upon the action or non-action of the people themselves.

Governments can do but little towards the advancement in prosperity of a country, unless the mass of the people are interested, and energetic in their efforts.

I would first place in the list of subjects which should engage the serious attention of the Government, and this House—as a body, or as individual members of society—attention to the fostering of our

AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS.

Agriculture must be the main-stay and support of our province, looked at from a Provincial stand point. We have

large tracts of land now in a state of nature, available for settlement. Recent explorations and surveys made by our Crown Lands Department in various parts of the Province, have discovered many eligible tracts of land, equally fertile to any now settled upon.

The lands are well timbered, well watered, with good soil, abundance of water-power for manufacturing purposes, and possess, as far as natural advantages are concerned, every requisite for sustaining a large population. Such lands, however, require to be opened up by means of roads, in order to render them accessible for settlement.

The large grants for opening Colonization roads, proposed by the Government and sanctioned by this House, evince the interest felt in opening up wild lands for settlers. The amounts granted have been spent in most cases to good advantage. The results will soon follow if means are taken to encourage settlers to locate on these lands and to afford that assistance necessary for them to establish themselves. Immediate results cannot be looked for.

I take it, that the Government by authorizing and contributing towards the establishment of Colonization Societies, which I am happy to say the people have lately shown so much interest in, will do much towards the inauguration of a system which cannot fail of success, and which will give satisfactory results.

The expenditure of the large sum of \$644,500 during the past three years, upon Agricultural and Colonization purposes, cannot fail, if future efforts are kept up, to attract to our wild lands, large numbers of immigrants, who will by their enterprise and industry materially add to the prosperity and wealth of our Province, and induce others to remain in our midst, as well as bring back those who have left the land of their birth in hopes of bettering their condition. (Cheers.)

It should be remembered that anything like systematic, energetic efforts to open up our wild lands with the view of inducing our native population to remain in the country, or to attract settlers from other lands is comparatively a late effort. We should not expect results too soon. It takes

a long time to change the course of trade or of commerce into a new direction. Men's minds when running in a certain channel, require first to have their attention arrested, to be brought to stop and consider, before they will work in another direction, and the same requires to be done in the present instance; but by continued effort, by a systematic course of procedure, we may hope to succeed. Already, I believe, the current of our native population going to the United States is partially arrested. They are beginning to return in considerable numbers, and during last season there were several thousands from other countries who decided to remain in our Province. (Applause.) Had the immigrants been of the agricultural class we could have got more to remain, but it was thought best not to induce too many of that class from cities to remain, they not being fitted for agricultural pursuits.

COLONIZATION ROADS.

While the Government has spent the largest amount of money upon Colonization roads of the 1st class, and very properly too,—where the population is scarce and municipal institutions still in their infancy—I am rather inclined to think, that hereafter the 2nd and 3rd class roads, upon which municipal aid is requisite in order to obtain Government assistance, may be entitled to more encouragement. The personal interest felt by those who contribute *directly* towards an object in which they have a personal interest, secure, I think more attention and supervision than can be expected in other cases.

COLONIZATION SOCIETIES.

With respect to Colonization Societies already alluded to, I think they may prove very useful in assisting settlers who wish to occupy our wild lands.

Their particular sphere I take to be the selecting of proper locations for intending settlers, so as to have some definite place ready to receive them—to assist them in making a beginning by sending persons accustomed to clearing land and building cheap houses, to show the parties how those things are done. And also to assist if need be in pro-

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curing seed grain and provisions till such time as their first crop is harvested.

In fact, the interest felt in the success of the new settler, and the sympathy expressed for him by the resident population, will perhaps do more to encourage and stimulate to effort—and induce parties to remain in our Province, than even the material aid afforded.

IMMIGRATION.

It is peculiarly the business of the Dominion and Local Governments to afford assistance, by enabling Immigrants to reach their ultimate destinations, and I am happy to say that, with the honorable member for Brème, whose indefatigable energy and industry are well known, at the head of the Agricultural and Immigration Departments at Ottawa, his Government will not be behind hand in this important work, and his efforts will stimulate, if it is required—which I feel assured it is not—our Local Government, to do its share in the encouragement to be afforded to this class of settlers.

With the promotion of agriculture, therefore, the propriety of fostering immigration is another point we must not overlook. (Cheers.) I care not where persons come from to settle amongst us, whether from Europe or the United States, the more of the agricultural class from any country we can induce to come here the better.

Skilled farming is further advanced in the old countries than it is here, and the example of experienced agriculturists from England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Belgium, Sweden, Germany or other nations, has already done much, and in the future will, I hope, do more in stimulating our farmers to better modes of husbandry, to better selections of stock and farming implements—to increased care and skill in the manufacture and application of manures, than have hitherto obtained amongst us.

The Hon. gentleman here stated that the first prize for ploughing at the Hochelaga Agricultural Society's Match was won by a French Canadian. (Cheers.) This would show the benefit derived from example. Our principal at-

tention should specially, therefore, be directed to the introduction of settlers from the agricultural classes of Europe. Thousands of this class can find locations where, with industry, sobriety and economy, they may make themselves homes in our midst—may make better provisions for themselves and families than can be done in their native land. Active exertions will prevent our native population from seeking to better their condition in the neighboring Republic, and induce those now there, perhaps temporarily at first, to return to the home of their fathers; and all this can be done, and much more too, if our own people are true to themselves, go rightly to work, and assisted and aided as such efforts certainly will be by the Government—whoever forms it—we may safely and confidently hope that the agricultural prosperity of our Province will be increased, and Quebec become a resting place and home for thousands upon thousands in a short time to come. (Loud cheers.)

As bearing upon agriculture, let me also allude in a few words to the necessity of affording every facility to our young men in acquiring

AN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Many suppose that comparatively little education is necessary to fit young men to become farmers. In fact, that any one not exactly fitted for any other pursuit is good enough for a farmer. Another idea prevails too much, that farming, if not perhaps disreputable or disgraceful, is, on the whole, rather a low calling, and is associated in the minds of many with hard dirty work—with ignorance of what is going on in the world, and no taste for literary information or intellectual culture of any kind. Language of this sort prevails too much. A greater fallacy never existed, and the sooner such nonsense gets dissipated the better.

We have, it is true, many honorable instances of gentlemen of wealth, intelligence, of mental culture, giving their attention to agricultural pursuits—gentlemen whose valuable assistance is always ready—on our Board of Agriculture, in our local Agricultural Societies—ready to contribute

money, and what is far more valuable, their time and efforts to encourage and promote agricultural pursuits.

Several of such gentlemen I have now the honor of addressing, and I gladly give them my humble tribute of praise for their efforts, and my sincere wishes for their success. Gentlemen whom the people honor, and who possess the esteem and respect of the whole community. Their efforts are directed to place agriculture in that rank—the first rank—to which it belongs, and whose services are, I am happy to say, fully appreciated and valued. Every member of this House will easily recollect over—this one and the other one in their respective localities—whose efforts to improve agriculture are worthy of all praise.

One gentleman well known throughout our entire country, showed me an invoice of imported stock, imported at *one time*, exceeding \$65,000. I need hardly say that I refer to Mr. Cochrane, of Compton. That gentleman has faith in the future of our Province, and all will join with me in wishing him every success.

Notwithstanding the efforts of such gentlemen, scattered throughout the Province, we require something more to be done. We must have institutions where our young men, farmer's sons and others, can receive an education specially fitted for agricultural pursuits. We have already our institutions for acquiring instruction in Theology, in Law and Medicine, in classical literature, in the arts and sciences, to fit men for these professions; we have our commercial colleges; institutions for teaching men and women, so that they may be able to teach others in our academies and common schools. These are all good—all worthy of an earnest support, by time, influence, and money. Our institutions alluded to are highly creditable to a new country like ours, but these are by no means enough.

We have, it is true, several agricultural colleges—schools where the theory and practice of agriculture are taught—others where agricultural instruction is merely tacked on, as if it was of no great moment. These have accomplished, doubtless, much good, but I would like to see such institutions multiplied in our land, and if properly organized and managed, they would soon become almost self-sustaining.

We require more of such colleges, where our young men could be educated in those branches of education peculiarly adapted to a new country like ours. (Cheers.) Institutions where our people could be taught to conduct agricultural operations in a scientific and practical way—where our young men who graduated there would, by their improved system of husbandry, by their intelligent adaptation of the theoretical knowledge acquired to the practical every day work of the farmer's life, demonstrate that a thorough education on these branches was as necessary to success, and as certain to attain it, as an education for any other calling—professional or commercial.

Let us not, therefore, rest satisfied with what has already been done, nor relax our efforts, but by every means in our power encourage and push forward a system of agricultural education, without which we must fall behind other countries in a great source of national wealth.

EDUCATION.

The general diffusion of education among our population, should be a special matter of effort to the Government—to this House, and to the country. Without a general system of education, our people must remain behindhand in every department of industry and national wealth. We will become hewers of wood and drawers of water, to those who are more advanced in literature, in the arts and sciences, and in every department of mechanics. So important do I feel it that the entire mass of our population should be educated, as far at least as reading, writing, and the first principles of arithmetic are concerned, that it has been a question with me how far compulsory attendance upon our common schools should not be insisted upon. It might appear rather arbitrary to do this; at any rate, every means should be employed to impress upon our people the absolute necessity of attention to the education of the rising generation. (Cheers.)

Men of property, of influence in their respective localities, ought to be more earnest in their efforts, more liberal in their contributions, more persistent in their endeavors to disseminate education; such an education as will fit our

young people to properly discharge the duties devolving upon them in their respective spheres of life. All honor to such as have spent their time, money and energies in this important work—a work in my opinion second only to the work of the clergy, in their efforts for the spiritual well-being of their flocks.

Our educational institutions are, I am proud to say, through the past and present efforts of the Hon. Premier, making steady progress from year to year, both as respects common schools, so-called, and those whose efforts are mainly directed to fitting persons for the important work of teaching. Our superior education will compare favorably with that of any other country, but it must depend principally on the efforts of men of wealth for support, and I know of no better way in which gentlemen who have acquired a competency can dispose of a portion of their wealth, than in aiding in the establishment and maintenance of our Colleges and Universities. I cannot help expressing my sincere congratulations and thanks to many of our wealthy men for their liberal contributions in this direction—contributions which reflect the greatest honor on those who make them, and tend to encourage those who are engaged in the management and conduct of these institutions. May their number daily increase. (Loud Cheers.)

This part of my subject is so large that I cannot enter more at length into the question, as time will not permit. I can only urge upon this House the propriety of placing our educational institutions of every grade upon the best possible footing—to grant liberally towards their support—to use every effort as private individuals to foster a spirit of enquiry concerning, and interest in, the diffusion of education, feeling assured that a great measure of our future prosperity as a Province depends on the manner our educational institutions prosper, and education becomes universal throughout our whole community.

I cannot, however, leave this part of my subject without some allusion to the amendments made in the School Laws of this Province at the second session of this Parliament. It was feared by many of the English speaking part of our population when the question of the Confe-

deration of the Provinces was under consideration, that it was not safe to trust the educational interests of the minority in the hands of the majority professing another faith and speaking another language. Whether these fears were well or ill founded, it was considered only proper that the question should be settled, and accordingly it was agreed at the Quebec Conference, so called, that a measure should be carried through the Legislature of Canada, at its last session before Confederation, which should place the question upon a satisfactory basis. (Applause.) To carry out this agreement a bill was introduced by the Hon. Mr. Langevin into the last Parliament of Canada, commonly called "The Langevin Bill," containing such provisions as were considered satisfactory to both Protestants and Roman Catholic. I need not go into the details of the failure of this measure in a house composed, it will be recollected, of a majority of English Protestants. The bill was withdrawn after some discussion, and this circumstance was felt so deeply and made so much of by certain parties who were seeking occasion for finding fault and to stir up national and religious feeling, that even those who entertained no such fears were obliged to take action, otherwise serious difficulties were apprehended, and Confederation was exceedingly doubtful.—(Cheers.)

It will, Mr. Speaker, be in the recollection of honorable members, that the honorable member for Montreal East stated that the Protestants need feel under no apprehension as to their rights under the Quebec Legislature, that he felt assured the Parliament of Quebec would do justice to the rights of all, irrespective of creed or nationality. This declaration was by some considered as a mere put off, at the time. The result which I will allude to by-and by clearly shows that the Hon. Baronet, well understood his countrymen, knew their desire to do justice to the minority, and could fully rely on their action in this regard when the time came. However in the meantime, a clause was introduced into the B. N. A. Act, 1867, on the subject of Education, which, while it left the question in the hands of the Quebec Legislature gave in certain cases the right of appeal to the Dominion authorities. At the 2nd Session of this House the question came up—I was not at the time a Member of the Government, and it will be in the recollection

tion of Honorable Members, that in my place in the House, I expressed my confidence in the desire of the majority of this House to grant all that the English Protestants would ask. That we, the English, only asked what was reasonable and just, and the F. C. majority were quite prepared to grant what would satisfy the minority, and place this vexed question at rest. (Cheers.)

Mr. Speaker, I need not go into details on this. The bill was introduced into this House, was well received by all and passed without I may say any discussion or what may be called a division on its main features. (Cheers.) If that amendment fails to meet the wants of the Protestant community no blame can be attached to the Government or the Members of this House, and perhaps the House will allow me to thank them for the straight-forward, honest and manly way in which this question was treated to the full carrying out my own expectations and statement in relation thereto. It will be remembered that the Hon. Baronet referred to, was not present in the House when this question came up, he was in England at the time, and the action of this House carried out to the letter, and fully verified his appreciation of what his countrymen would do. The action of the Government and this House fully redeemed his pledge given in Ottawa.

GOVERNMENT EXPLANATIONS.

I intended to refer also to the way in which the government and this House have shewn their interest in opening up our country for settlement, by granting liberal aid towards the construction of Colonization Railways, but I must forbear; the intention of the government being to aid such works, when the people in their respective localities feel interest sufficient to induce them to contribute the principal part of the expense. This is a perfectly legitimate way of spending public money and entirely distinct from opening up railways between large commercial centres; these should be considered upon their respective merits, and I believe the policy of the government upon these railways to be liberal—always taking into account the financial condition and resources of the Province—and I trust this House and the country will so consider it.

Where such railways promote colonization purposes by settling the country, all the more reason why the government should aid in these undertakings; as I have said before, the financial condition of the country must be kept imperatively in view.

CIVIL DEPARTMENTS.

Allow me to say a few words upon the organization of the different Departments of the Civil Government. In commencing the establishment of a new Government, it became necessary not only to organize these on some regular plan, to systematize the work to be done, but also to divide the work amongst the different departments, so as to ensure proper efficiency, and prevent any thing like undue interference by one department with another. This has all been done, and the working of the different departments has been found satisfactory. The improvements upon the old system adopted by the Dominion Government have been adopted here. (Applause.) In every respect, I think our system will compare favourably with that of any other Province in the Dominion. I have no hesitation in saying that the management of our Crown Lands is vastly improved, and our Revenue largely increased, to what was the case during the former Government of Canada. Our Public Works Department, is to say the least, well managed, and the supervision exercised over the large expenditure for Colonization roads, more strict, with better results than hitherto obtained under the old regime.

The laws introduced into this House and adopted by it for the various Departments of the Government threw a great responsibility on the administration in preparing these measures, and they have in the main been found to work well. Of course in starting a new machine, it was to be expected that some parts of the machinery would produce more friction than was desirable, and that time and some alterations would be required to have all its parts work in harmony; also, that some delays would occur in bringing all the different parts to act in unison, so that the public business would not suffer, but I think the administration deserve well of this House and the Country, for their successfully working out, thus far, our present government.

tal machinery, and commencing a system which on the whole works so well, and bids fair to be permanent. I take no part of the credit of this to myself. I was not at the time a member of the Government, but I feel that my colleagues have acted wisely—prudently and in the true interest of our Province in what they have done.

Although not perhaps strictly within the scope of the Quebec Legislature, still we will, I hope be able hereafter to do something towards the development of our mineral wealth—and the establishment of manufactories in our Province. With regard to the former the raw material, we have in abundance. In every section of the Province valuable minerals are to be found. The working of those minerals will give employment to a large number of our people—thus retaining them in our country. (Cheers.)

The want of manufactories in the Province, is the main cause, in my opinion, of the large numbers of our population seeking employment in the United States. I believe more than three quarters of our people go to the United States because of the employment afforded in the various manufacturing establishments which abound there. (Cheers.)

If Honorable Members want to prevent our native population from leaving the Province, and to induce those now in the neighbouring Republic to return to the land of their birth; If they want to attract skilled and intelligent labour in the various branches of mechanical industry; If they want to build up our Province in National wealth consequent upon the useful employment of skilled labour, in manufacturing pursuits;—Their efforts should be directed to encourage by every means the establishment of every kind of manufactures likely to prove successful. There is no question in my mind but that the prosperity of the country can be much augmented by a judicious expenditure of public money in aid of manufactories of various kinds.

We have not, it is true the imposing and collection of duties on foreign importations. We cannot by our legislation afford that protection and encouragement to manufacturers which they claim as a right, and expect from Government; and without entering further into the question at

present, I think we may by our influence as a House and as private individuals encourage the establishment of factories of various kinds, and bring public opinion to bear on the Federal Legislature in such a way as will benefit these important branches of industry.

In order to our progressing as a Province, it is not at all requisite that we should take a narrow contracted view of public questions, or look at them only from a local point of view. We must not bring every question down to that of parish politics. We should look at questions in a national point of view. As the Dominion prospers we as part of the Dominion will prosper too, and in considering any question affecting our Province, we ought also to look at what effect our policy will have on the Dominion. If our own Province is likely to be benefited by an expenditure, and that expenditure is likely to benefit any of our sister Provinces, all the more reason we should engage in it. If each of the Provinces act in this liberal way, without local jealousies but anxious to promote the welfare of the others, our whole country will advance, and thus the bonds which exist between the several Provinces will be strengthened, and our Central Government be enabled to assist more and more in building up the Dominion on a firm and permanent basis. (Cheers.)

It is only by united effort on the part of our people—on the part of this House, and on the part of the Government, that we can expect our Province to assume that importance in the Confederation, to which she is entitled. Our soil may be more sterile—our winters a little colder and longer than in some of our sister Provinces; our direct resources may be more limited, but, notwithstanding these apparent disadvantages, our position locally is such, and the necessity for increased industry, for economy, our other Provinces may be made to further our prosperity, instead of retarding it.

I am therefore disposed to look forward with great hope, to our advancement in prosperity.

The administration of Justice in our Province is well attended to; our laws respected, and crimes punished. Our efforts heretofore, in aid of Agriculture, of Coloniza-

tion, of Education—of the development of our timber resources—of the establishment of our Civil Government on a firm and permanent basis, have, so far, been a success. In these regards, the members of this House deserve well of the country, because, instead of trying for party ends and for party purposes, to prevent the passage of laws deemed important by the Government, every assistance has been afforded in carrying forward the legislation of the country. (Applause.)

The attempted agitation upon the propriety of Canada assuming a position of independence, as respects the mother country, or, in other words, preparing for annexation to the United States, has, so far, failed of even being considered, by the people, as a proposition worthy of serious attention.

The attempted invasion of our territory by bands of citizens from the neighboring Republic met with a quick response from our brave Volunteers so that our soil was not polluted, even for a day, by those lawless bands of ruffians. The prompt response by the Volunteers of our Province, when danger of invasion was apprehended, was worthy of all praise, and has received at the hands of the Dominion Government, of our military officers and of the Home Government, not only the highest commendation, but substantial marks of approval from Her Majesty the Queen and the Queen's Government. (Cheers.) The action of our Volunteers, when the Fenian raids were anticipated, proves that our people may be fully relied upon in any emergency, when the invasion of our country is apprehended. The spirit of loyalty of attachment to our country and institutions, which universally prevails, backed as Canada would be with the whole power of England, in case of any difficulty with our neighbors across the line—of which difficulty I have no apprehension—renders us invulnerable against any foreign foe.—(Loud cheers.)

We have had unfortunately, during the past season, several portions of our Province destroyed by fire—particularly the Saguenay and Ottawa districts. The hon. member for Chicoutimi exerted himself nobly for the relief of those who were ruined by the large fire which swept from end to end of that district. Thanks to his efforts, seconded as they were by the people of the country in a liberal way,

and assisted by the Government, who felt that this House would, without a dissenting voice, sanction the aid given from the public purse, they were enabled to sow their fields again, and with a bountiful harvest the settlers in the Saguenay district will remain on their farms and soon make themselves independent. The Ottawa region also was visited later in the season by a destructive fire. Here again the liberality of our people was tested and nobly did our cities, towns and villages respond to the call made upon them. The Government here again, on the instance of the members for Ottawa and Pontiac, did something to assist private benevolence, and would have done more had not the Saguenay fire already drawn a considerable sum out of the Treasury. The relief granted to the Ottawa sufferers was placed in the hands of the general committee in Ottawa, for distribution, the Government thinking that in a case like that no regard should be had to the line dividing Quebec from Ottawa. This amount will, I doubt not, be cheerfully sanctioned by the House.

We have had peace from the horrors of war, and plenty in all our borders, while the fairest portion of Europe, from which the majority of our people in the Province have sprung, has been the scene of war in all its enormity, and with famine and pestilence, have desolated a large portion of "La Belle France." This state of affairs in Europe could not fail to excite our deepest sympathy, and our earnest prayers for peace and tranquility. A careful study of the causes which led to the fearful war now raging in France—of those principles which are at work, regardless of the state of the country—of that party spirit which intrudes itself into every department of life, cannot fail if carefully viewed by those who occupy public life in this country, of moderating the expression of sentiments likely to unsettle men's minds, and to render them dissatisfied with their present condition and future prospects.

On a comparison of our position therefore, with almost every other, we have cause for thankfulness for the past, and hope for the future. Our people are living in peace and harmony with each other; the fears entertained by many of a different state of things under Confederation, have so far proved groundless. (Cheers.)

This mixture of races and creeds may even with proper care and consideration for each other's feelings, prove a blessing to us as it has in other countries. Each may prove a stimulus to the other, to enterprise and industry, by each learning from the other in those particular qualities in which one race may surpass the other.

By this practice, by following up the course adopted since the union of the Provinces—by the non-discussion of public questions in a national or denominational spirit—by judging of public questions on their true merits—by individual effort—by associated effort—we can, and, I trust sincerely, will, bend our energies to the advancement of our Province in intelligence, in material prosperity, and thus, by the blessing of Divine Providence upon our exertions we will do our part to build up on this side of the Atlantic, a grand nationality worthy of our glorious ancestry. We may thus leave as a legacy to those who follow us, Institutions, fixed and permanent, as that of Old England itself. Institutions, where the rights of others are respected, where liberty of conscience is enjoyed, where life and property are safe, where wise, beneficent laws are made and impartially administered, where unity and peace prevail, and where a resting place and home are ready for millions from other countries, who may wish to share with us, our true freedom and prosperity.

When the hon. gentleman resumed his seat he was loudly cheered on both sides of the House.

The Speaker then left the chair, and a few items were passed through committee.